

US Army Corps of Engineers_o Vicksburg District

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435 www.mvk.usace.army.mil



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: KNG-MVK-2005-191

EVALUATOR: Ms. Kaaren Geter

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DATE: September 20, 2005

EXPIRATION DATE: October 11, 2005

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has a copy of the application on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:
St. Tammany Parish Government
Post Office Box 628
Covington, Louisiana 70434

Name of Agent:
Kevin Burkes
J.V. Burkes and Associates
2990 East Gause Boulevard
Suite B
Slidell, Louisiana 70461

Location of Work: Section 14, T8S-R14E, UTM 15 331751N 811386E, within the Lower Pearl River drainage basin, St. Tammany Parish, near St. Joe, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit for discharges of dredged and/or fill material associated with the mechanical clearing and filling of wetlands and other waters of the United States. The work involves the construction of a detention pond, levee, access road, relocation of two segments of a canal, and a maintenance/staging area. The purpose of the project would be to create a detention pond for St. Tammany Parish Government to intercept potential flood waters from W-15 canal, protecting upstream and downstream resources.

The project site consists of 73.61 acres of wetlands. The northeastern portion of the property is mostly pine flatwood wetlands. The southwestern portion of the property is mostly bottomland hardwood wetlands. Mature vegetation on the site consists of slash pine, loblolly pine, sweetbay magnolia, water oak, willow oak, red maple, and sweetgum. Sapling vegetation consists of gallberry, gaint gallberry, and titi. Herbaceous vegetation consists of smilax bona-nox, cherokee rose, greenbrier, and woodwardia ferns. Soil located on the site is listed as hydric and is identified as Myatt fine sandy loam.

The applicant has proposed to impact approximately 35.5 acres of the 73.61 acres of wetlands in the project area. The applicant proposes to impact approximately 28.4 acres for the mechanical clearing and excavation of the detention pond and the placement of fill material for the adjacent levees. The excavation of the detention pond would also involve the excavation of an existing segment of W-15 canal (0.96 acre/1,900 feet in length/25 feet in width). Additionally, the applicant proposes to mechanically clear and fill 4.13 acres for a maintenance/staging area and 0.8 acre for a gravel access road. Approximately 2.2 acres would be mechanically cleared and excavated for the relocation of two canal segments.

The detention pond would be 14 feet deep from the top of the proposed levee, with sides at 3 to 1 slopes. Portions of the excavated material from the detention pond would be used to create the levee around the detention pond and a gravel access road. The levee surrounding the detention pond would be 6 feet in height, 15 feet in width at the top, 25 feet in width at the base, and 1,270.5 feet in length. A gravel access road, 15 feet in width and 3,300 feet in length, would be placed along the western boundary of the property and along the southern portion

of the detention pond. Approximately 1,400 feet of the access road would be located along the levee on the western border and 600 feet along the southern border of the detention pond.

At the northwest corner of the property, the inflowing W-15 canal would be tied into a relocated portion of the canal. The relocated canal would run north to south along the western boundary of the detention pond and then west to east along the southern border of the detention pond. The relocated canal would then tie into the existing W-15 canal in the central portion of the property. The new canal would be 25.0 feet wide and 4 feet deep, with sides of 3 to 1 slopes. The north to south portion of the canal would be approximately 1,200 feet in length and the east to west portion would be approximately 800 feet in length. A 60-inch concrete culvert would be installed under the access road and connect the two segments of the relocated canal.

The inflowing W-15 canal and the opening of the relocated canal at the northwest corner would also be tied into the detention pond. A weir would be placed in the northwest corner of the detention pond. The weir would be 67 feet in length and 2 feet in height. Excess water would exit the detention pond through a pump station installed at the southern central portion of the detention pond and into the existing W-15 canal. The pump station would be comprised of two 20-cubic-feet-per-second pumps.

The portion of the existing W-15 canal segment located in the central portion of the property flowing to the southern portion of the property would remain intact. At the southern portion of the property a new canal segment would be routed along the same path as the existing gas line for approximately 400 feet. The new segment would be 15.0 feet wide and 5 feet deep, with sides of 3 to 1 slopes and would flow into the existing W-15 canal. The existing southern canal segment would be left open to continue flow.

Approximately 400,000 cubic yards of on-site soil would be excavated to create the detention pond, with portions of the material used to create an access road and levee. Approximately 5,900 cubic yards of additional on-site soil would be excavated to create the two relocated canal segments. Approximately 21,250 cubic yards of excavated on-site soil would be used to create the levee and approximately 600 cubic yards of excavated on-site soil would be used to create the access road. Approximately 850 cubic yards of crushed limestone/gravel would be hauled in for the access road surface. Any remaining fill material excavated from the detention pond not used in this project would be sold for fill material for construction.

A 75-foot wooded buffer would remain around the western, northern, and eastern boundary of the detention pond and associated levee and/or relocated canal.

The mechanical clearing and placement of dredged and/or fill material in wetlands and other waters of the United States require a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in St. Tammany Parish listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land

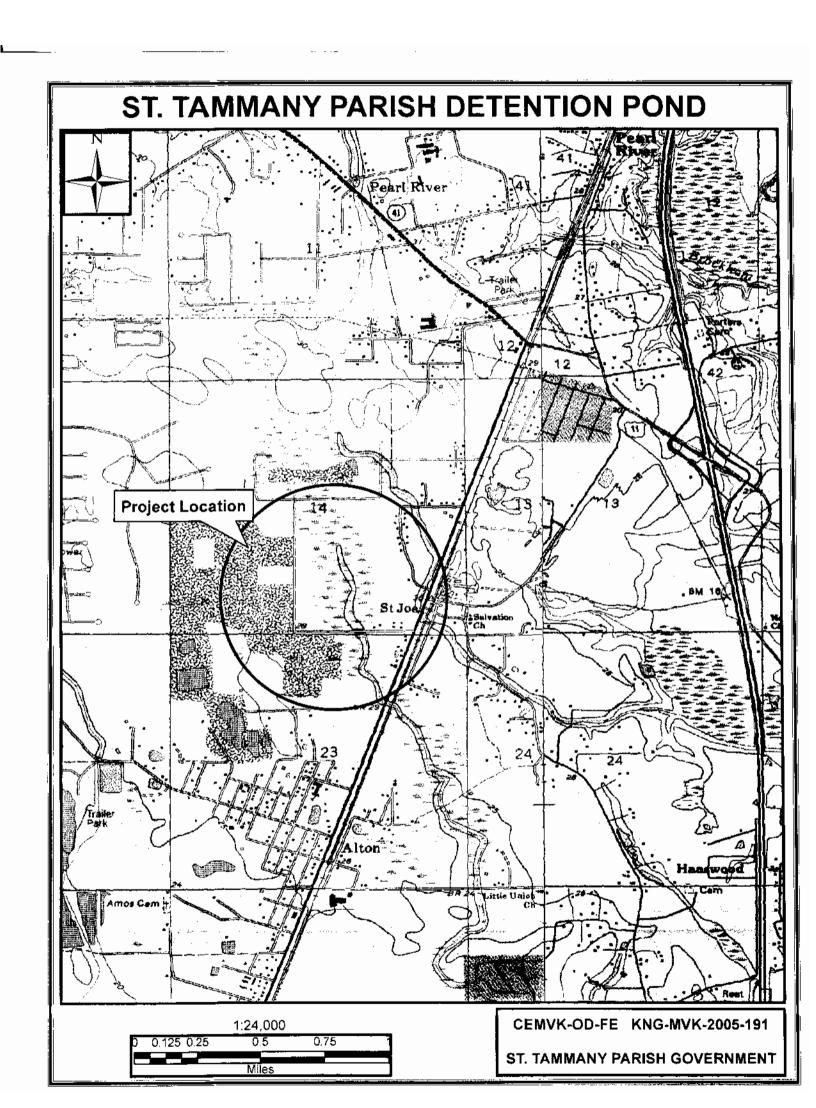
use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

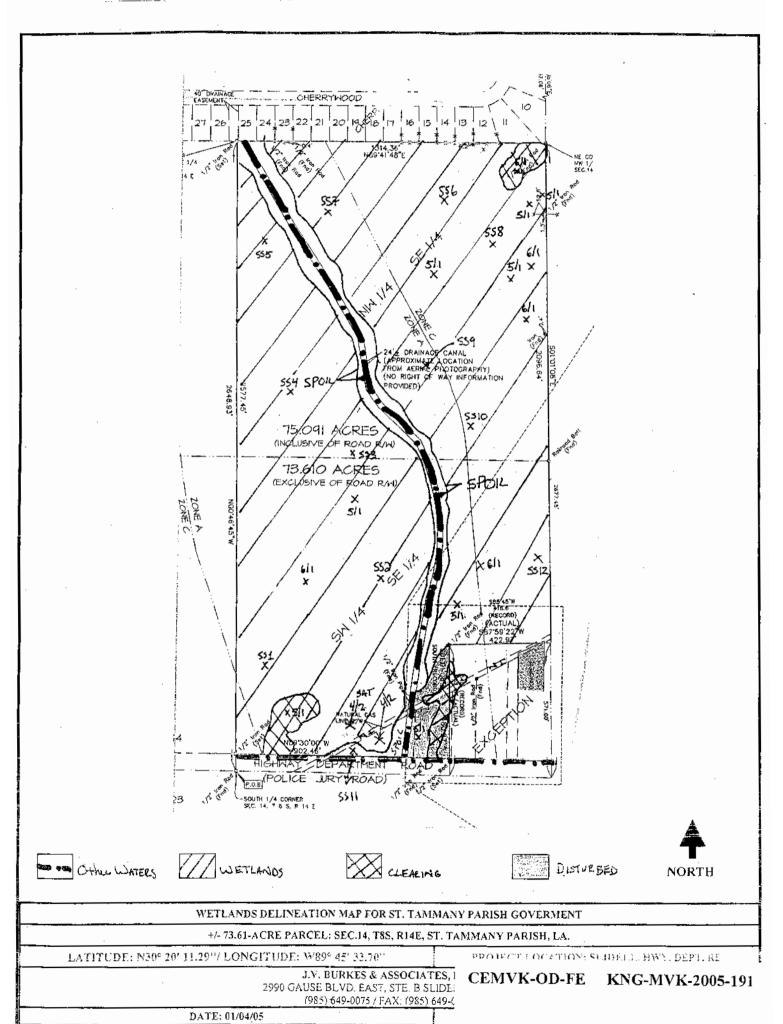
Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

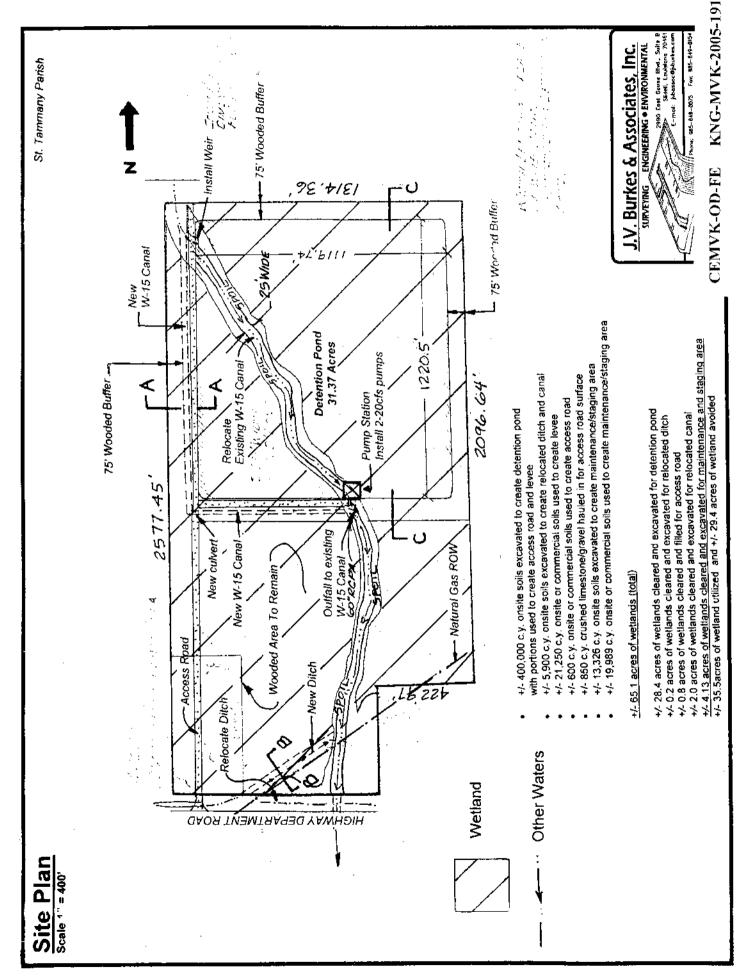
Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp.

W. Harold Lee Team Leader Evaluation Section



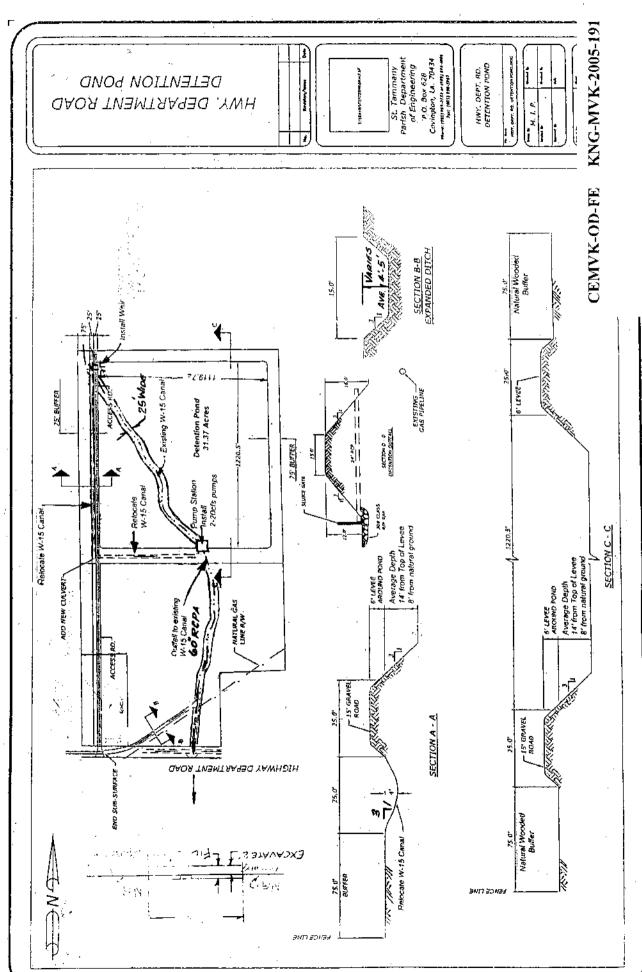


ST. TAMMANY PARISH GOVERNMENT



Typical Profiles

- +/- 400,000 c.y. onsite soils excavated to create detention pond with portions used to create access road and levee
- +/- 5,900 c.y. onsite soils excavated to create relocated ditch and canal
- +/- 21,250 c.y. onsite or commercial soils used to create levee
- +/- 600 c.y. onsite or commercial soils used to create access road
- +/- 850 c.y. crushed limestone/gravel hauled in for access road surface
- +/- 13,326 c.y. onsite soils excavated to create maintenance/staging area
- +/- 19,989 c.y. onsite or commercial soils used to create maintenance/staging area



ST. TAMMANY PARISH GOVERNMENT

